

June 2010



# CLAS

## HIGHLIGHTS

Culture and Language Academy of Success • Aspire. Affirm. Attain.

### Dates to Calendar

June 9 – Shortened Day Wednesday – Early Dismissal

June 10 – Senior Ditch Day – 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

June 11 – School-wide Field Trip – John's Incredible Pizza

June 15 – Righteous Ceremony

June 15 – Last Day of School

June 16 – Kindergarten Culmination

June 16 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation

### Counting Down to Year's End

## Thank You For a Great Year

We are not defeated by our continuing fiscal and facility challenges. We are not deterred as we have gone almost half of the year unpaid. We are still determined to overcome these challenges. Through it all, we want to thank you for a great year. We have managed to make it, albeit with some hiccups and hitches. Many, certainly not all, of our parents and families have expressed happiness and satisfaction with what has occurred in their child's classroom. Our students, the most important persons in our school, are proud to be CLAS students



and what that means and brings. They appreciate the dedication, creativity, and teaching of their student advocates. They cherish their classmates and the friendships that have been established. Most telling, they love learning at CLAS. Regardless if your student will be continuing with us or not, we know the vision and message of CLAS will carry forth through these youngsters in good stead.



We have much to be thankful for: our year started in August with a best, new parent orientation meeting at Marriott Courtyard in Culver City; started off the year in a new site at Coliseum Street; a great turnout at our annual community gathering; showed improved attendance in the fall; show-stopping Heritage Celebration; instituted writing performance assessment program; implemented revised homestudy policy; successfully completed standardized testing; Sports Day; and our annual spring concert.



Thank you CLAS Community! Thank you for believing in CLAS the school, CLAS the movement.

## SCHOOL YEAR WILL NOW END ON JUNE 15

In response to the fiscal crisis facing Culture and Language Academy of Success that is in large part due to state deferrals of principal apportionment funding, we recently applied for and received approval to amend the 2009-2010 calendar of instruction by three days. This means that that **the last day of school will be Tuesday, June 15, 2010 instead of the previously scheduled Friday, June 18, 2010.**

This decision was based on what has been determined to be a net overall savings to CLAS, especially in terms of the human cost of doing business due to staff having gone without pay for nearly five months. The amended school year will provide greatly needed relief.

We apologize for any inconvenience this change may create for you. Please make the appropriate child care arrangements for the three days from June 16 through June 18 that school will now no longer be in session. Thank you for understanding.

## Musically Gifted Scribes Deliver Standout Performances

### SPRING CONCERT IMPRESSES ALL

Directed by Dr. Dawn Norfleet, the CLAS choir and others impressed attendees at the 3rd Annual Spring Soiree with the range of songs and musical talents. Based on the theme of Billie Holiday's, *Stormy Night*, in true CLAS form the students learned Harlem Renaissance history as well as musical acumen.

This year's Spring Soiree was the best attended in its three year history and for good reason. Beginning with the 5th Grade Recorder Ensemble's wonderful recital, the promise evident in the growing musicianship of CLAS students was astounding. The CLAS Choir was simply incredible, Vocal Workshop performers were sublime, the dance performance was inspiring, and the Scribe Cipher was hot.

The Choir and Scribe Cipher followed the Spring Soiree with another great performance as part of the California African American Museum's (CAAM) Target Sunday Spring Performance Art series on June 6. A key highlight was the Cipher's performance of their Juneteenth rap, composed, written, and performed entirely by the Cipher members after learning about the historical and cultural significance of the Juneteenth Emancipation Day Celebration.

Kudos to Dr. Norfleet and our talented Scribes for jobs well done!

## Bring a Friend to CLAS and Get Community Participation Hours Credit

### LAST CALL TO RE-REGISTER FOR THE 2010-2011 YEAR

We know that many of you who intend to return next year have not turned in your re-registration forms. Right now, our numbers are running low. We need 275 students to begin in September. Will CLAS be in existence? Yes. Where are going to be located? The latest is that we are going to be located in two sites: Coliseum Elementary and Orville Wright. The exact configuration is not known as of yet.

We know of at least 50-75 families who need to turn in their registration forms and have not done so. We really need you to submit your forms now so that we can have an accurate count.

To help increase our numbers, we are offering a special deal. Bring a student to CLAS and earn 50% of your community participation hours for next year. Simply have someone apply and register by August 1<sup>st</sup> and you are only obligated to complete half or 18 of your community participation hours for next year.

### SCHOOL BY SITE HIGHLIGHTS AND MORE

- Kindergarten 5-year-olds at Pleasant Hill prepare to make the big leap to 1st grade with their upcoming culmination on June 16 at 11:00 AM in the Pleasant Hill Sanctuary.
- Coliseum's Science Fair and Project showed how the 3rd graders get their science on. Well done!
- 8th Graders have begun preparing to leave CLAS for good, beginning with their annual family dinner held at Truxton's restaurant on Friday, June 4, followed by Grad Night at Disneyland on June 5. They will enjoy their "senior ditch day" at Santa Monica Beach on Thursday, June 10. Finally, their 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony takes place on Wednesday, June 16, at 6:00 PM at the California African American Museum in Exposition Park.
- Sports Day was a big success. Westchester Park was just the right venue. Thanks to all who assisted in making the day the perfect celebration of a job well done by our Scribes on the Big Game tests. Extra special kudos to **Branden Nelson** for grilling tasty hot dogs and hamburgers for the entire school!
- CLAS Kinder through 7th grade students will journey to their end-of-year field trip at John's Incredible Pizza in Montclair on Friday, June 11.

*"The strength of many lies in unity." – Ghanian Proverb*

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